

WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 19, 1915.

# Griffith Predicts That Base Ball Peace Will Prevail Within Short Time

## BASE BALL PEACE CERTAIN TO COME

Independents Virtually Surrendered When They Sought Compromise.

SINCLAIR IS MAN BEHIND MOVE TO ELIMINATE FEDS

Realized Third League Was Doomed to Failure—Fortune Lost in Venture.

BY J. ED GRILLO.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

NEW YORK, December 18.—The Federal League will be a thing of the past by the time the next base ball season opens. All that remains of the Gilmore circuit at this time is the history of its two-year career. Stories telling of the wonderful achievement of the Feds in its dealings with organized base ball are not based on facts. The Feds' proposition is nothing more than a surrender. There was hardly a chance for the league to continue its course; most of the clubs had lost heavily and just one man remained who could have continued the battle. That was Harry Sinclair, a man of untold wealth and shrewd enough to realize there was no chance for the Federal League to eventually succeed. He figured it would be better to spend a lot of money to get into organized base ball, where there is a future, than to send a lot of good money after bad.

It was with this in view that Sinclair arranged the peace proposal, which has not only been agreed upon, but which will be carried out to the letter in due time.

Sinclair Assumes Burden.

So anxious is the western millionaire to end the war and get into the organized end of the game that he proposed to pay the salaries of twenty-five players who have long-term contracts without the release clause, until these players are paid up according to their agreements. This will require a lot of money, and few of the players will be able to leave the three clubs which will be purchased by the Sinclair interests will have the present members and all the Fed players to draw from, none of the other teams in the major leagues will employ any of the players who have long-term contracts because it would be an injustice to the players who remained loyal to the Federal League in the two years it was in operation were tremendous, and it is because of this that the league cannot be successfully conducted with the players drawing exorbitant salaries and the owners paying nothing for them. The league will be placed in organized base ball, where it will have a chance to succeed. In due time, following the natural falling off in the general expenses which grew beyond reason when the war was started.

"Scoop" Starts Trouble.

Some most misleading stories have been printed in New York which were intended to create the impression that the Federal League had beaten organized base ball into line. Such, however, is far from the truth and was caused by the fact that one industrious writer got on the job by last week and printed the exclusive story of the peace deal which was started by the Feds, implying that the Federal League had been defeated and then presented to the club owners of the National League in annual session.

This "scoop" so enraged the other writers who were covering the National League meeting that the Johnsons were roasting organized base ball, particularly President Tener, ever since and have made it their business to put something over on organized base ball. The proposal made by the Feds, or, to be more accurate, by Sinclair, for to be the man behind the movement, was so fair and reasonable that the Johnsons immediately adjourned its meeting and hurried a committee to New York to go into session with the Federal League. There was not a single hint in the preliminary negotiations, however, that the Federal League had been defeated and that it was only a question of time when the Giants will go into Sinclair's hands.

Giants for Sinclair.

It is more than likely that the New York Giants will be purchased by Harry Sinclair within a very short time. The Cubs will go to Weegman and Walker, who have lost a fortune in the venture, and they will move the Cubs to the north side, where the plant will be greatly increased in size. In St. Louis the Browns will be purchased by Fed money and Fielder Jones will become one of the owners of the team, besides being its manager. This deal, like the Cub deal in Chicago, already is well under way, and there are those who insist that it will be only a question of time when the Giants will go into Sinclair's hands.

## THESE FOUR INFELDERS PROVED BEST FIELDERS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS LAST SEASON



Of the four shown above, Eddie Collins simply cannot help leading the second sackers in grabbing grounders and otherwise guarding his position around the keystone sack. It is simply a habit with Edward Trowbridge. George McBride of Washington, who tops the shortstops, is another repeater, he having been the best fielding shortstop in 1914. Vitt of Detroit and Pipp of New York, however, are newcomers to the ranks of premiers. Pipp's performance is decidedly notable, as it was his first year as a regular big leaguer.

## NO LEGAL HURDLES

Base Ball Peace Will Not Be Held Contempt of Court.

FIRST MOVE UP TO FEDS

Having Instituted Suit, Must Take Initiative in Withdrawing It From Court.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

CHICAGO, December 18.—Peace in base ball will not be construed as contempt of court. That was made certain today when the report came from New York that the magnates were coming west in order to seek the withdrawal of the base ball suit now before Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis. Judge Landis intimated that no hurdles will be put in the way of the magnates getting the case out of court.

Suit Nearly a Year Old.

It is now almost a year since the case was brought into court. Surmises as to when the decision would be announced have been many, but apparently Judge Landis has figured that it would probably be the worst thing which could happen to the game. As was apparent during the argument of the case the court did not entirely treat the mass of testimony in an entirely judicial light. He let it be known to the orators before the bar that base ball was a national institution and that sentiment should be allowed to figure in the deliberations. In view of this the chances are that Judge Landis himself had been awaiting a peace move with more than a passing interest. Thus it will be easy for attorneys to get the case out of court should they so desire before the trial.

Cross-Country Run Postponed.

NEW YORK, December 18.—Owing to the unfavorable condition of the Van Cortlandt Park course, which was covered with slush and dangerously slippery, the national senior amateur championship run was postponed today until Saturday, January 8.

## PEACE DUE TUESDAY

Reported That Pact Will Be Ratified at Cincinnati.

BROWNS AND CUBS SOLD

International League to Buy New York Feds' Park—Sinclair May Retire.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

NEW YORK, December 18.—Peace in base ball will be ratified in Cincinnati next Tuesday. At that time the national commission will meet a committee from the Federal League in order to subscribe to a new peace pact. Final details of this scheme were worked out today at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel by the triumvirate, representative of the Federal League and President Ed Barrow of the International League. Those who sat in at the conference were sworn to secrecy. None of the delegates would admit anything further than that the league had been organized base ball almost a year ago. It is hoped that this suit will have been withdrawn from the court of Judge Kenesaw M. Landis of Chicago in time for the Cincinnati love feast Tuesday.

In spite of the utmost vigilance of the peace parties a leak developed that gave away today's deliberations in full. An absolutely unimpeachable authority it has been learned that the Browns, the American League club of St. Louis, have been sold to Otto Rife and Phil Ball, the St. Louis Federal League promoters. The Chicago Cubs have been disposed of to Charles Weegman and W. C. Walker, the owners of the Chicago Federal League team, and who are said to have the backing of the Armour millionaires.

Harry F. Sinclair, the Oklahoma oil king, who operated the Newark Federals, is going to step down and out of the game. He has had quite enough of base ball. Up to twenty-four hours ago there was possibility of Sinclair becoming interested in either the Giants or Yankees. Harry N. Hemphill, president of the National League club, Messrs. Ruppert and Huston financially decided that they would like to have Sinclair. There is a slight possibility that Sinclair may become interested in one of the local clubs. He is quite willing, however, to retire as gracefully as he may.

## CLARK GRIFFITH CONFIDENT PEACE WILL BE ARRANGED

Nationals' Manager Tells of Efforts He Made to Make Trades—Sox May Still Try for Gandil.

By J. ED GRILLO.

Manager Clark Griffith returned yesterday afternoon from the trip to Chicago and New York, at both of which places he attended base ball meetings. Griffith made the hurried trip with Ban Johnson, Comiskey and President Minor to New York when the Feds' peace pleas were broached.

"There is no question about peace arrangements being made in due time," said Griffith. "There are, of course, a lot of details to be gone over, but it will all be fixed up ultimately, and there is bound to be a general revival of interest in the national pastime next season as a result. The Federal League realizes that there is not a chance of success for a third major league, and it is because of this that the new league is willing to quit if its principal backers can be taken care of. I understand this can be done; in fact, is already under way."

Griffith, in speaking of his failure to make any trades during the meeting, said: "Ed St. Louis and Chicago wanted Gandil. Ricker saw me by appointment the very day I arrived, and I told him that if he was willing to talk trade for either Pratt, Shotton or Sissler, to shoot away and I would deal with him. But he said none of these players was to be had and, of course, that settled it. I was a little concerned. He later came and made another proposition, but I turned that down because it would not have given me the kind of players I want."

"Comiskey still wants Gandil, but he does not offer anything in the way of players that I could accept. However, he may have something better to offer later in the winter, for he realizes that he can make good use of Gandil. I tried to get Janviri from Boston, but Manager Bill Carrigan's determination to stand pat with the team which won the world championship this year eliminated that young man from consideration. I believe he would have made me a good second baseman."

"I know now just how I will line up my infield or outfield; that will develop during the training season. I have a large squad of outfielders, even one of whom will report here in the spring. There are eight of them—Jameson, C. Miller, Earber, Moeller, Shanks, H. Millan, Rondeau and Acosta. Manager Griffith believes that the coming season will find Acosta making good in this company. "You know, Connie Mack had Eddie Collins four seasons before he made good," Griffith said, "and I believe Acosta will arrive next season. Collins joined Mack in 1906, but it was not until 1909 that he began to show himself a really great ball player. Acosta, who is still a mere boy, has been with me three seasons, and I would not be at all surprised if he came through next season."

## M'BRIDE ON STAND TO PLAY IN PHILLY

Testifies as to Formulation of Army-Navy Game Goes to Quaker City Next Season.

MAKES A POOR WITNESS ALSO IN FALL OF 1918

With Other Diamond Stars Gets Stadium Seating 50,000 People May Be Erected by That Time.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., December 18.—Base ball stars do not show as well playing a game of law as they do in base ball. This was demonstrated today in the suit of Cyril Slapnicka, pitcher for the American Association local team, for \$200 for winning half his games in 1914, when he called all the local base ball notables in his behalf. Here were some of the men called: Don Marion, Buffalo; George McBride, Washington; Fred Molwitz, Cincinnati; Fred Luderus, Philadelphia, and Umpire Bill Kuehn of the International.

All of the witnesses when taking the stand professed to be base ball experts, but found the curves of a star of the legal game considerably easier to strike out on than they would have found a Walter Johnson or an Alexander. Don Marion became flustered when he testified about the practice of switching pitchers in the middle of a game.

Fine, Finished Seventh.

"Fine, Buffalo did it all season," he said, in telling of three pitchers being in one game. "Where did Buffalo finish?" was asked, and Don confessed, in seventh place. Then the legal light showed Milvay of the base ball game. He was a seventh-place finisher, and Marion retired in confusion.

George McBride tried to testify as to the formulation of contracts, and he was soon badly tangled. Finally counsel for the local team said: "Mr. McBride, you are a little nervous for a base ball expert, but you get as nervous as this in a game."

When McBride answered "no," the lawyer gave him a copy of the base ball game. He said he would have something to play with besides his hands.

PIGEON ENTRIES CLOSED.

Hundreds are Refused Owing to Lack of Space. The entries for the exclusive racing pigeon show, to be held Wednesday, closed last night. Many fanciers were disappointed in not being able to enter as many of their fine pigeons as they wanted to, owing to the lack of space. As a result only the very best pigeons will be on exhibition. All the notable racers of Washington will be in the show. There will be play of timing machines, which will be used in the racing. The national record for a 600-mile race, pigeons that have won second honors in the grand national race from Canada, veterans which after proving winners in races of 400 and 500 miles have rounded out their notable careers with honors from New Orleans, Chicago, St. Louis and Canada. A feature of the show will be a display of timing machines, racing rings, solid silver cups, papers, photographs of English and Belgium champions and other interesting paraphernalia.

## CATHOLIC U. WINS AT BASKET BALL

Brooklanders Defeat Gallaudet in Their Opening Game by 34 to 24.

TEAMS FAIL TO DRIBBLE AND PLAY IS MEDIOCRE

Players Not in Best of Condition, Either—Faults Expected in Opening Contest.

BY H. C. BYRD.

Catholic University won the first basketball game of the season between local colleges last night when it defeated Gallaudet by a score of 34 to 24. The contest developed nothing out of the ordinary, the play as a whole being rather mediocre. Little fault, though, should be found with the efforts of the quints, considering the conditions under which the game was played.

The main fault of both teams was a lack of condition. Neither quint was in good shape and the players were very much fatigued before the middle of the second half was reached. At times in the first period, too, the men slowed up because they could not stand the pace.

C. U. Misses Many Shots.

Catholic University missed enough shots at the basket in the first half to win. Neither team did anything extraordinary in putting the game over. It was aimed for, but Gallaudet made good on a greater percentage of its shots than did C. U. The Brooklanders worked the ball down the floor many times in the first half only to miss the attempts at goal. And they were clear misses, too, not a Gallaudet man being near on a number of the occasions when the ball was tossed wide. Considering the difficulty of playing on the floor at Gallaudet, it is hard to tell just how well the two teams did play. On the whole, the contest was rather uninteresting, but that was to be expected, as accurate work is seldom seen in opening battles.

Teams Fail to Dribble.

Both teams failed to take advantage of the dribble as much as they should. Gallaudet was more at fault in this respect than C. U., its players electing to pass the ball many times when they had a clear floor for a dribble. There was a lot of fumbling by the Catholic University players and their passing was not as good as that of Gallaudet. Familiarity with the floor worked to the advantage of Gallaudet in that respect, though. Catholic University got the margin in the first half by six points, and had the Brooklanders made half the shots they attempted they would have been much farther in front. Gallaudet threw four goals from the floor in the first half and C. U. five. The Kendall Green boys proved more accurate in getting the ball into the basket, making good on most of their chances early in the game.

Cartwright Shoots Goals.

The real feature of the first half and the only one which was of much account in the first half was the goal shooting of Cartwright from the foul line. Cartwright got eight chances, and he basketed the ball seven times. A Wenger made three goals from fouls. The second half started with Gallaudet outplaying the Brookland five, and for the first eight or nine minutes it looked as if the Buff and Blue might even up things. Toward the end of the contest the C. U. players spurred and enabled them to play strictly on the defensive in the closing moments. Cartwright and A. Wenger both missed many chances from the foul line in the second half. The last-up and summary:

Catholic U. Position. Gallaudet. Cartwright. Left forward. A. Wenger. Right forward. R. Wenger. Left guard. R. Wenger. Right guard. R. Wenger. Center. R. Wenger. Goals from floor—Cartwright (4), Shortley (3), Gallaudet (2), Kegan, Cartwright (2), R. Wenger (4), Mella (2), Rasmussen, A. Wenger (2). Goals from foul—Cartwright (10), A. Wenger (10), R. Wenger (3), Gallaudet (1), Shortley (1). Time of game—20 minutes each.

DOG SHOW DATES.

American Kennel Club Assigns March 13, 14, 15 for Local Event.

The Washington Kennel Club has just been notified by the American Kennel Club of New York that the dates for their dog show have been arranged. The show will be held on March 13, 14 and 15. It will be a busy day here for the dog fancier and a large entry is expected. One thousand dollars in cash prizes has been offered, in addition to a number of special cups.

The first of a series of club exhibits was held yesterday under the direction of George N. Payette for puppy bulldogs under six months. There were a number of high-class entries and the quality of the dogs shown was remarkable. R. H. Atkinson's White Croft Dog won first prize, with Mrs. L. Mann's white Cocker Spaniel second. Third went to Max Rosenthal's Queen Elizabeth. Charles A. Watson, who judged the breed, gave a short talk on the bulldog, and placed the dog to the satisfaction of all. In the near future there will be another exhibit, and D. E. Buckingham will deliver a short lecture on "The Dog in Sickness and Health."